

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" Story Elements

### I. Author's Background: Rudyard Kipling

#### A. Author: Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

- Born in \_\_\_\_\_ where his father was a professor of art.
- When he was 6, he and his sister were sent to school in \_\_\_\_\_.
- When he was 17, he returned to India and took a job as an \_\_\_\_\_ with an English-language \_\_\_\_\_. Soon, it was printing Kipling's poems and tales about what he saw around him. Readers begged for more.
- His fame grew and over the next 50 years, he wrote dozens of books and won the \_\_\_\_\_ in Literature.

#### B. *The Jungle Book* (1894) and *The Second Jungle Book* (1895)

- a collection of \_\_\_\_\_ written by Kipling
- first published as \_\_\_\_\_ in 1893-1894
- They are fables, using animals to \_\_\_\_\_
- Kipling wanted to include nearly everything he knew or "heard or dreamed about the \_\_\_\_\_" in his stories.

### II. "Rikki-tikki-tavi" -The Short story, itself.

#### A. **Setting** is the time and place in which the story occurs.

- "Rikki-tikki's" is in the late 1800s
- Location is in a bungalow, an open airy house, located in \_\_\_\_\_
- The climate is \_\_\_\_\_

#### **The History of the British rule in India:**

- England became interested in Indian in the 1500s because of thriving \_\_\_\_\_

- The "\_\_\_\_\_ Company" formed and was granted the powers to maintain an army and a navy, declare war, and govern new territories.
- The people of India, called Indians, rebelled against the East India Company in \_\_\_\_\_
- England stepped in and took control of India and it became a \_\_\_\_\_ (until 1947)
- India finally gained independence in 1947, after a century-long struggle with the British government.

## B. Points of View

1. **First-person** narrative uses first person pronouns such as: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and mine.

Here is an example of first-person POV.

Circle all of the first-person pronouns you see being used:

I walked down the dark, deserted alley. The silence broken only by the sound of my footsteps upon the recently wet asphalt. I slowed my pace for it seemed as if it was becoming darker the further I ventured into its depths. My vision could no longer give form to any object, not within arm's length. Suddenly, a slimy chill began to crawl up the inside of my right pants leg. Its smoothness wrapped first around my ankle, then began the ascent toward my calf.

2. **Third-person *limited*** narration is when the author tells the reader what one character \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_. These stories use third-person pronouns such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

- It's called "limited" because we are *limited* to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ --Not *EVERYONE'S*!

Read the following example of third-person limited POV:

Susan was determined to make the team. She practiced for over a month, perfecting her kick into the net. Each afternoon after school, she walked to the soccer field, cleats in hand, a black and white striped ball tucked under her right arm. Her mind wandered and she envisioned herself standing in mid-field; her opponents' twin images of herself ready for the assault.

3. **Third-person *omniscient*** narrators can read every character's minds and can predict the future.
  - a. When you break-down the word, "omni" in the Greek language means: \_\_\_\_\_ and "scient" means \_\_\_\_\_. Put it together and "omniscient" means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. "\_\_\_\_\_" is told in third-person omniscient narration.
  - c. What other "beings" do we believe to be omniscient? \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Characterization. There are 4 ways to learn about a character.**

- Your author may describe a character's \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ traits.
- And your author may reveal these traits \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

1. **External characterization** = words provided by the author or narrator which describe external \_\_\_\_\_ of a character.

- a. Example from "Rikki-tikki-tavi": Rikki has "short, brown hair, bushy tail, quick legs", etc.
- b. What might someone say to provide external characterization about you?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Internal characterization** = words provided by the author or narrator which describe a character's (internal) \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Example: a character's \_\_\_\_\_, likes, dislikes, \_\_\_\_\_, wishes, etc.
  - i. To say that someone is "smart" is an example of internal characterization.
- b. Example from "Rikki-tikki-tavi": Rikki is proud at the end of the story.

3. **Direct characterization** = is when the author *directly* characterizes (describes) a character to the readers; the readers have to do very little thinking to do in order to learn something about the character.

- a. Example of Direct Characterization:

"He was a mongoose, rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits. His eyes and the end of his restless nose were pink; he could scratch himself anywhere he pleased, with any leg, front or back, that he chose to use; he could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle-brush, and his war-cry, as he scuttled through the long grass, was: "*Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!*"

The previous passage is describing Rikki. Since the author \_\_\_\_\_ instead of having another character describe him, we can say that this is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ characterization. *In addition to that, however*, the passage is also describing Rikki's *physical appearance*, so what other kind of characterization is this passage demonstrating? \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Indirect characterization** = when information about the character is revealed, but only in a way that makes us readers have to make inferences to judge him/her on our own; we're not directly told what to think about the character.

a. Example of indirect characterization from "Rikki-tikki-tavi":

"This is a splendid hunting-ground," he said, and his tail grew bottle-brushy at the thought of it, and he scuttled up and down the garden, snuffing here and there till he heard very sorrowful voices in a thorn-bush."

We can use this quote to **infer** that Rikki- Tikki is \_\_\_\_\_ (*What adjective would you use to describe him?*)

b. What does it mean "**to infer**" or to "**make an inference**"? Well, notice that the word you chose does not appear in the passage we see here. You need to

\_\_\_\_\_ (make an inference) by \_\_\_\_\_ Rikki's actions to determine how best to describe him.

i. Therefore, calling Rikki \_\_\_\_\_ (your chosen adjective) based on this passage was an example of indirect characterization.

## D. Figurative Language

1. **Personification** = when we give \_\_\_\_\_ qualities to animals, objects or ideas.

- Common examples include: books running, trees dancing, wind howling.
- Examples from "Rikki-tikki-tavi" \_\_\_\_\_ (such as the snakes, birds and mongooses in the story)

2. **Simile** = a comparison of two unlike things using the words "like" or "as"

- Examples from "Rikki-tikki-tavi" Rikki's eyes were "hot like coal" (p 21).

3. **Onomatopoeia** = words that \_\_\_\_\_ associated with its \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

- Common examples: hiss, zip, bang
- Examples from "Rikki-tikki-tavi": "Rikki-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk" (Rikki's war cry)

4. **Hyperbole** = extreme exaggeration used for \_\_\_\_\_.

- Common example: "I'm so hungry, I could eat a whole cow!"